

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/083,688

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to acknowledge receipt of the Corrected Drawings and to indicate that these drawings are approved in the next Patent Office correspondence.

II. Summary

The Examiner now rejects claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Urushibata et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,057,650; Figure 1), and claims 3-5, 8-10, and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Urushibata (Figures 2 and 5).

III. Anticipation Rejection

As set forth above, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Urushibata (Figure 1). For at least the following reasons, Applicant traverses this rejection.

The Examiner takes the position that Urushibata discloses a plurality of electrical connection terminals, each including a wire connection portion at a rear end portion and a pair of piercing portions (5) to pierce the conductor of the flat circuit member at a front portion (see Office Action, page 2, numbered paragraph 3). Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner is mischaracterizing the Urushibata reference.

For example, Urushibata does not disclose a pair of piercing portions (5) to pierce the conductor at the flat circuit member. On the contrary, Urushibata merely discloses that the flat angular conductors 4 are overlaid on crimped terminals 5. In particular, Urushibata discloses lead wires 2 that are fitted with crimped terminals 5 at the lead wire ends. Further, Urushibata discloses that, to connect the flat electric cable 3 made of the flat angular conductors 4 to the lead wires 2, the end portions of the flat angular conductors 4 are *overlaid* on the crimped terminals 5

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and then spot welded thereto to comprise the welded joints 7 for the electrical connection (see col. 1, lines 24-30). In fact, Figure 1 of Urushibata clearly shows the crimped terminals 5 surrounding the flat conductors 4, not piercing the flat conductors 4. Thus, contrary to the Examiner's position, Urushibata neither discloses nor suggests that the crimped terminals 5 *pierce* the flat angular conductors 4. Instead, Urushibata discloses that the flat angular conductors 4 are *overlaid* on the crimped terminal 5.

In comparison, claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a plurality of electrical connection terminals, each including at its rear end portion a wire connection portion to which the wire is connectable, and at its front end portion *a pair of piercing portions to pierce the conductor of the flat circuit member*" (emphasis added). Similarly, independent claim 11 recites, *inter alia*, "a plurality of electrical connection terminals, each including at its rear end portion a wire connection portion to which the wire is connectable, and at its front end portion *a pair of piercing portions...wherein each pair of piercing portions pierces the respective conductor of the flat circuit member*" (emphasis added).

Therefore, since Urushibata clearly does not disclose or suggest at least a pair of piercing portions to pierce the conductors of the flat circuit member, Applicant submits that Urushibata does not (and cannot) anticipate either independent claim 1 or independent claim 11. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the § 102 rejection of independent claims 1 and 11, and additionally, dependent claims 2, 6, 7, 12, 16, and 17.

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IV. Obviousness Rejection

As set forth above, the Examiner rejects claims 3-5, 8-10, and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Urushibata (Figures 2 and 5). For at least the following reasons, Applicant traverses this rejection.

Applicant submits that Figure 1 of Urushibata neither discloses nor suggests all of the recitations of independent claims 1 and 11, as set forth above. Additionally, Applicant submits that Figures 2 and 5 of Urushibata do not make up for the deficiencies of Figure 1 of Urushibata. For example, neither Figure 2 nor Figure 5 of Urushibata discloses or suggests at least “a pair of piercing portions to pierce the conductor of the flat circuit member”, as recited in independent claim 1, or “a pair of piercing portions...wherein each pair of piercing portions pierces the respective conductor of the flat circuit member”, as recited in independent claim 11.

Instead, Figure 2 and 5 of Urushibata merely disclose a terminal 5 that is put in contact with the exposed round cross section conductor 40 and crimped so that the terminal 5 is attached to the lead wire 40 (see col. 3, lines 14-20). That is, the terminal 5 is merely clamped onto the round cross section conductor 40. Additionally, the terminal 5 is *put in contact* with the connection terminal 13 of the metal line 11, which are then welded to each other by a spot welder so the lead wire 40 is connected to the metal line 11 (see col. 3, lines 21-28). That is, as shown in Figure 5, the terminal 5 merely is *laid* on the flat conductor terminal 13 and then welded to the flat conductor 13. Accordingly, Figures 2 and 5 clearly do not disclose or suggest at least a pair of piercing portions to pierce the conductor of a flat circuit member, as claimed; and therefore, do not (and cannot) make up for the deficiencies of Figure 1 of Urushibata, as applied to independent claims 1 and 11.

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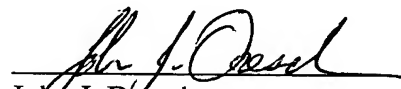
For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that Urushibata neither discloses nor suggests all of the recitations of independent claims 1 and 11. Therefore, Applicant submits that claims 3-5, 8-10, and 13-15 also are patentable over Urushibata at least by virtue of their dependency from claims 1 and 11, respectively. Additionally, Applicant submits that claims 3-5, 8-10, and 13-15 also are separately and independently patentable over Urushibata at least by virtue of the additional features recited therein. Accordingly, Applicant request the Examiner to withdraw the § 103 rejection of claims 3-5, 8-10, and 13-15.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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